COALITION for HEALTH FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2023

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Washington, D.C.— The Coalition for Health Funding issues the following statement regarding the House majority's sweeping and dangerous spending cuts for fiscal year 2024 in the proposed Labor, Health and Human Services and Education bill and the need to avert a federal shutdown.

The <u>Coalition for Health Funding</u>, an alliance of 85 nonprofit organizations working to promote strong investments across the public health continuum, is outraged at the proposed cuts in the House majority's FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) funding bill. We urge the House of Representatives to reject cuts to vital health programs, ensure the government remains open, and advance a Labor-HHS funding bill that invests in our nation's health.

Americans need a robust and resilient public health infrastructure that is adequately funded to protect and promote their health. Yet, the proposed 12% cut to the Department of Health and Human Services in the House majority's Labor-HHS bill would endanger the public's health. If enacted, it would devastate America's public health infrastructure and scale back important research investments for next generation cures and therapies.

The cuts included in the bill would:

- Slash research funding for cancer cures and emerging infectious diseases at the National Institutes of Health;
- Drastically cut prevention programs for heart disease and diabetes at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Substantially cut programmatic funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at a time our country is facing a mental health and opioid epidemic; and
- Eliminate funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Healthy Start program that supports the health of mothers and infants.

These cuts would significantly reduce or completely eliminate essential services that improve the health and well-being of communities across the country and enable us to respond to emerging health threats, provide preventive care, and ensure access to critical health services for vulnerable populations. Biomedical research and development efforts would be slowed or halted, making it more difficult to get new treatments and cures into the hands of people who need them most.

Congress must act to keep the government open, defeat this harmful Labor-HHS bill, and build on previous investments made in FY 2023.

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The Coalition for Health Funding includes <u>85 organizations</u>. It is the oldest and largest nonprofit alliance dedicated to sustained public health funding to strengthen overall public health infrastructure.